

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In this Response, claims 12, 24-25, 31, 34-38 and 41 are canceled, claims 2-8, 10, 13-15, 17-23 and 30 have been amended to change their dependency, and claims 42-44 are newly presented. Further, claims 1, 9, 11, 16, 39 and 40 have previously been canceled. Therefore claims 2-8, 10, 13-15, 17-23, 26-30, 32-33, and 42-44 remain pending. Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification and the originally filed claims. Accordingly, the amendments do not introduce any new matter.

These amendments are made solely to expedite prosecution of the present application and do not constitute an acquiescence to any reference identified or rejection raised by the Examiner. Applicants reserve the right to further prosecute the canceled subject matter in a separate patent application.

OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to illustrate every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Particularly, the Examiner stated that the “notches or cuts” and the “detached or discontinuous segments” must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. Applicants traverse this objection and believe that these features are indeed adequately illustrated in Figures 4-5. However, in the interest of expediting resolution of this application, Applicant has canceled claims 25 and 37 which recite the features objected to by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) has been overcome.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Non-Final Office Action dated March 7, 2007, the Examiner has withdrawn the allowability of claims 22, 34-36, 38 and 41 upon further consideration of the prior art cited. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that independent claims 32-33 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully traverse the withdrawal of allowability of claims 22, 34-36, 38 and 41. However, in the interest of expediting resolution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 12, 24-25, 31, 34-38 and 41. Further, Applicants have amended dependent claims 2-8, 10 and 30 to be dependent from allowable independent claim 32; and dependent claims 13-15, 17-23 have been amended to be dependent from allowable independent claim 33. Additionally, claims 42-43 are newly presented herein and depend from allowable claim 32, while newly presented claim 44 depends from allowable claim 33.

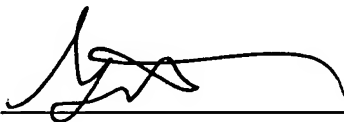
Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments to the claims overcome the rejection set forth in the previous Office Action and thus are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing Amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 2-8, 10, 13-15, 17-23, 26-30, 32-33, 42-44 of the present application are allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants thus respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/4/07

By: 

Gary M. Butter
Reg. No. 33,841

Attorney for Applicant(s)
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza, 44th floor
New York, New York 10112-0228
(212) 408-2646

Lisa Chiarini
Reg. No. 50,932

Attorney for Applicant(s)
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza, 44th Floor
New York, New York 10112-0228
(212) 408-2536